

2016 Cherry Tomato Variety Trial Results

Methods/Procedures:

In the middle of April, 14 varieties of cherry tomatoes were planted in the hoop house at the People's Garden located at the Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds. The varieties in the research included: Gold Nugget, White Cherry, Black Cherry, Snow White, Sweet 100, Cherry Baby, Sakura, Sun Gold, Red Lightning, BHN-968, Red Zebra, Washington Cherry, Black Pearl and Yellow Pear. Two replications of each variety were planted. The seeds were purchased from Johnny's Select Seeds and Burpee. The first 3 weeks the plants were covered with a row cover inside of the hoop house. Drip irrigation was used. No quantitative data was collected due to the harvest volume and limited resources. Qualitative data was recorded which included a taste test by three individuals and observational data.

Results:

Variety	Seed Source	Size	Taste	Other Observations
Cherry Baby	Burpee	Small	Chosen the best in taste from one of the three reviewers	Disappointing yield; good shelf life
Snow White	Burpee	Average	Boring, plain	Difficult to tell when ready to harvest; may have marketing issues; lots of cracking
Red Lightning	Burpee	Large	Plain, soft texture	Beautiful skin, nice size for a cherry tomato variety
Yellow Pear	Burpee	Average (pear shaped)	Soft texture, ranked second in taste by one reviewer	Very prone to cracking and short shelf life
Red Zebra	Burpee	Large	Plain, soft texture	Beautiful skin, nice size for a cherry tomato variety
Black Pearl	Burpee	Average	Ranked second overall in taste	
White Cherry	Johnny's	Average	Boring, plain	Difficult to tell when ready to harvest; may have marketing issues; lots of cracking
Sakura	Johnny's	Average	Chosen the best in taste by one of the reviewers	First to have ripe fruit – (7/13/16)
Supersweet 100	Johnny's	Average	Ranked fourth overall in taste	Nice qualities, good production
Gold Nugget	Johnny's	Average	Soft texture, not much taste	Heavy production-most in the study
Washington Cherry	Johnny's	Average – large	Not much taste	Just behind Red Lightning and Red Zebra in size

Sun Gold	Johnny's	Average	Chosen the best in taste by one of the reviewers	Nice gold to orange color; heavy production
Black Cherry	Johnny's	Average	Not quite as good as Black Pearl	Good production
BHN-968	Johnny's	Average	Average	Very poor production

